

**Chapter 7**  
**DISCONTINUATION OF SERVICES, GRADUATION, AND GRADING**

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## **Chapter 7**

### **Discontinuation of Services, Graduation, and Grading**

#### **Section 1. Discontinuation of Services**

##### **A. Students Who Are No Longer Entitled to Services**

The district will follow appropriate procedures to discontinue special education services to students who are no longer entitled to those services.

###### **1. Student No Longer Meets Eligibility Criteria**

If it is suspected that a student no longer meets the eligibility criteria for the IDEA, the evaluation team will conduct a reevaluation and arrange to have additional assessments conducted if necessary. If the student is no longer eligible under the Idaho eligibility standards, the district will provide the parent/adult student with written notice of this decision prior to discontinuing special education services.

###### **2. Student Completes Requirements for a High School Diploma**

The district's obligation to provide special education services ends when the student meets the district and State requirements that apply to all students for receipt of a regular high school diploma without adaptations. Although this is considered a change of placement, a reevaluation is not required. Prior to graduation and the discontinuation of special education services the district shall:

- a. provide the parent/adult student with written notice of the district's obligation to provide special education services ends when the student obtains a regular high school diploma; and
- b. provide the parent/adult student with a written summary of academic achievement and functional performance which shall include recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals. This summary is known as the Summary of Performance (SOP).

###### **3. Student Reaches Maximum Age**

For students who have not yet met their district's high school graduation requirements, the district's obligation to provide special education services ends at the completion of the semester in which the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age. This is considered a change of placement that does not require a reevaluation. If a student is turning twenty-one (21), the district shall:

- a. provide the parent/adult student with written notice the district's obligation to provide special education services ends at the completion of the semester in which the student turns twenty-one (21) years of age; and,
- b. provide the parent/adult student written summary of academic achievement and functional performance which shall include recommendations to assist the student in meeting his or her postsecondary goals. This summary is known as the Summary of Performance (SOP).

## **B. Change in District Obligation to Provide Services**

Under certain circumstances, a student may continue to be eligible for special education services, but the district's obligation to provide services changes.

### **1. Transfer to Another District**

When a student is no longer a legal resident of the district, the district will forward the student's special education records electronically or by mail within five (5) calendar days of the request from the new district. The records shall include, at least, the student's most recent individualized education program (IEP) and eligibility documentation. The sending district will retain copies or originals of the most recent five (5) years of programmatic and fiscal records, including IEPs and eligibility documentation. During an audit, Child Count verification, or monitoring, this documentation may be needed to demonstrate that the student was eligible for special education and received special education services from the district. Note: Districts are required to maintain Medicaid-related records for six (6) years. See Chapter 11 for more information.

### **2. Enrollment in Private School or Receives Homeschooling**

When a parent/adult student withdraws a student from public school and enrolls him or her in a private school or provides homeschooling, the district's responsibilities vary depending on the circumstances. See Chapters 2 and 9 for more information.

### **3. Dropouts**

When a student drops out of school, written notice will be sent to the parent/adult student and a copy of the notice will be placed in the student's special education confidential file. If the student reenrolls and is still eligible for special education, the previous IEP can be implemented if it is current and appropriate. A new IEP shall be developed if needed.

### **C. Parent/Adult Student Revokes Consent for Special Education Services**

When a parent/adult student revokes consent for special education services in writing, prior written notice shall be provided specifying when the special education and related services will cease. Note: A parent/adult student has the right to revoke consent for IEP services in their entirety, not service by service. The written notice shall include a statement indicating the district stands ready, willing, and able to provide FAPE should the student remain eligible for special education services.

## **Section 2. Graduation**

Graduation means meeting district and State requirements for receipt of a high school diploma. If a student is not granted a regular high school diploma or if the high school diploma is granted based on completion of adapted graduation requirements, the student is entitled to receive a free appropriate public education (FAPE) through the semester in which he or she turns twenty-one (21) years of age or determined no longer eligible as a result of a reevaluation. A General Education Development (GED) certificate does not meet district requirements that are comparable to a regular high school diploma. The IEP team making these decisions shall include a district representative knowledgeable about State and local graduation requirements.

### **A. Individualized Education Program (IEP) Team Requirements Regarding Graduation**

1. Determine whether the student will meet all state and local requirements to be eligible to graduate from high school and anticipated graduation date.
2. Develop the course of study in collaboration with the Parent Approved Student Learning Plan required for every student prior to the end of eighth (8<sup>th</sup>) grade. The Student Learning Plan will be reviewed annually and may be revised at any time.
3. Beginning no later than the end of the student's ninth (9<sup>th</sup>) grade, review annually the student's course of study, identify and make changes to the course of study needed for the student to meet graduation requirements and become a contributing member of society.
4. Document any accommodations and adaptations made to the district's and State's regular graduation requirements on the student's behalf.

#### **a. Graduation Requirements with Accommodations**

Accommodations to graduation requirements are determined by the IEP team and are deemed necessary for the student to complete graduation requirements. Further:

- 1) Accommodations to graduation requirements must specifically address completion of the student's secondary program.

- 2) Accommodations will maintain the same level of rigor to the district and State graduation requirements. For example, a teacher may use different instructional strategies or alternate methods for assessing the student's acquisition of skills that are equally rigorous.
- 3) Accommodations made to any district or State graduation requirement shall be stated in the student's IEP.

b. Graduation Requirements with Adaptations

Long-term consequences for the student shall be considered when adaptations are made to graduation requirements. Further:

- 1) Adaptations to graduation requirements shall specifically address completion of the student's secondary program.
- 2) Adaptations may alter the level of rigor required in the district or State graduation requirements. Examples of adaptations include changes made to course content, objectives, or grading standard that alter the level of rigor.
- 3) Adaptations of any district or State graduation requirement shall be stated on the student's IEP. The team shall discuss with the parents the effect of adaptations on regular education diploma and FAPE.

5. Demonstration of Proficiency of State Content Standards State Board of Education rule (IDAPA 08.02.03.105.06) requires that each student achieve a proficient or advanced score on the Grade 10 Idaho Standards Achievement Test (ISAT) in math reading and language usage in order to graduate. Each student's IEP will include a statement of how the student will demonstrate proficiency on the Grade 10 Idaho Standards Achievement Test as a condition of graduation. If the method to demonstrate proficiency is different than meeting proficient or advanced scores on the high school ISAT or the ISAT-Alt, a student with an IEP may meet this requirement by:

- a. achieving the proficient or advanced score on the Idaho Standard Achievement Test (ISAT) or, for eligible students, on the Idaho Standard Achievement Test – Alternate (ISAT-Alt); or
- b. demonstrating proficiency on the content standards through some other locally established plan; or
- c. having an IEP that outlines alternate requirements for graduation or documents assessment adaptations (adaptations that will invalidate the assessment score).

## **B. Graduation Ceremonies**

A special education student who completes his or her secondary program through meeting graduation requirements or criteria established on his or her IEP will be afforded the same opportunity to participate in graduation ceremonies, senior class trips, etc., as students without disabilities. It should be noted the participation in his or her graduation ceremony does not, in and of itself, equate to the receipt of a regular high school diploma or completion of their secondary program.

## **Section 3. Transcripts and Diplomas**

### **A. Transcript**

The transcript serves as a record of individual accomplishments, achievements, and courses completed. Transcripts shall adhere to the following conditions:

1. Accommodations that allow the student to complete and demonstrate that he or she has met graduation requirements will not be noted on the transcript.
2. Adapted course work may be noted on the transcript if the parent/adult student is informed in advance and the designation is not discriminatory or identify the student as having a disability or receiving special education.
3. Course designations, titles, or symbols that are used solely to identify adapted course work that is taken by students with disabilities will not be used.

### **B. Diploma**

1. For students who are eligible for special education services, the district will use a regular diploma at the completion of their secondary program through meeting graduation requirements or criteria established on his or her IEP; this includes students who meet the graduation requirements with accommodations and/or adaptations.
2. A modified or differentiated diploma or certificate may not be used for students who are eligible for special education unless the same diploma or certificate is granted to students without disabilities in the same graduating class.

## **Section 4. Grades, Class Ranking, and Honor Roll**

Grades earned by students with disabilities will not be categorically disregarded or excluded from district wide grade point average (GPA) standing. The district may establish objective criteria for class rankings, honors, etc., that weight courses according to degree of difficulty or exclude non-core courses so long as such practices are nondiscriminatory.

